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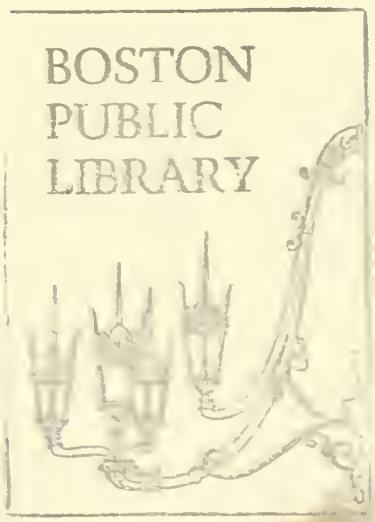
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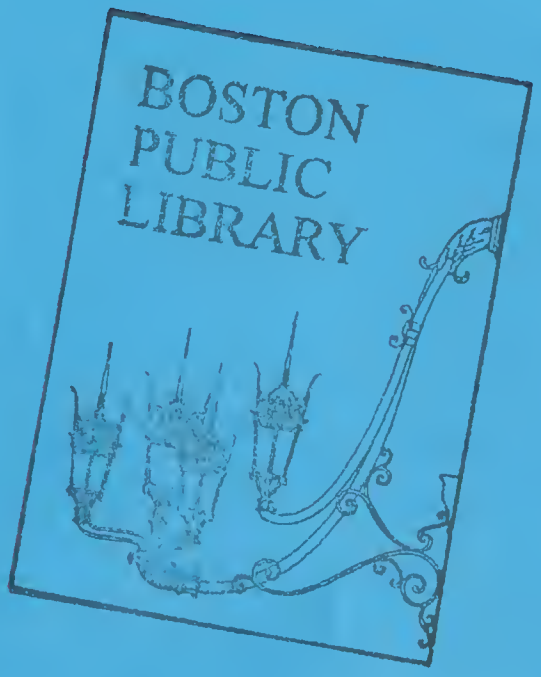
MIDTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT PLAN

HISTORIC BUILDING

★ SURVEY ★



City of Boston

Mayor Raymond L. Flynn

Boston Redevelopment Authority

STEPHEN COYLE, DIRECTOR

Office of the Arts and Humanities

BRUCE ROSSLEY, COMMISSIONER

MIDTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT PLAN

HISTORIC BUILDING

★ SURVEY ★

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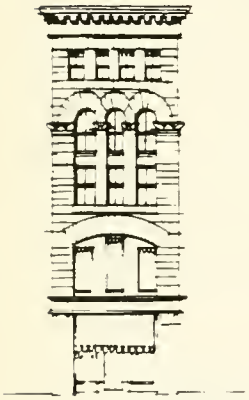
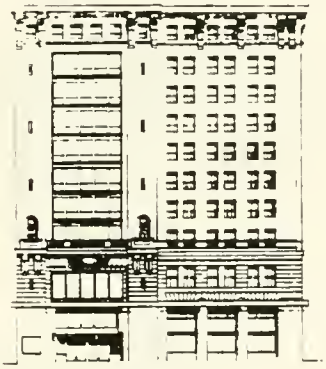
MIDTOWN/CULTURAL DISTRICT
Historic Building Profile

The Midtown area's historic buildings represent an important resource in terms of their architectural character and the unusual opportunity afforded by the concentration of active and vacant theaters within the Cultural District. The Midtown/Cultural District plan will protect existing theaters and other historic buildings and provide the revitalization necessary for them to be renovated or remain viable.

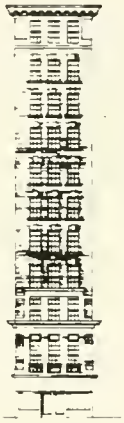
The Downtown Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD) designates historic properties to be protected over the three year period during which studies will be undertaken for a series of downtown districts, including the Midtown/ Cultural District. Through a permanent zoning amendment, the Midtown/Cultural District plan will set in place the long term protection of historic buildings.



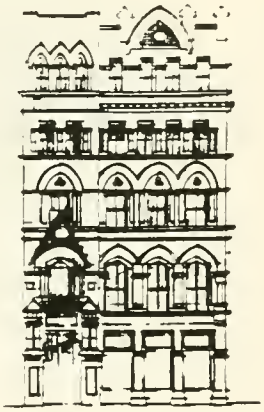
HAYDEN



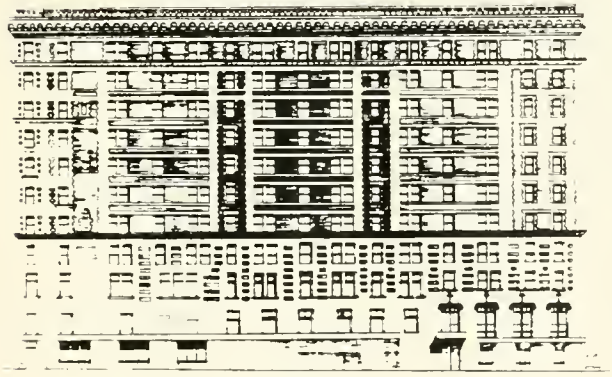
BOSTON EDISON



AVERY HOTEL



Y.M.C.U.

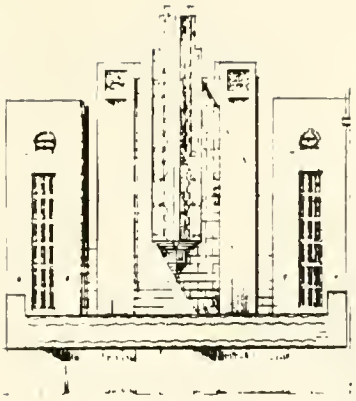


HOTEL TOURAINE

WARREN SAVINGS

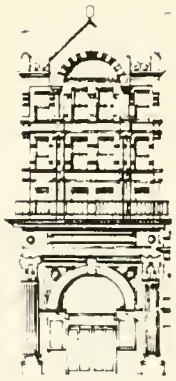
JACOB WIRTH

The architecture of the Midtown/Cultural District includes a wide range of styles reflecting a gradual and unplanned evolution from rural to urban and from residential to commercial. Several distinctive individual buildings from the Federal era have survived here, along with cohesive ensembles of Victorian commercial buildings, brick "lofts," and turn-of-the-century "skyscrapers".

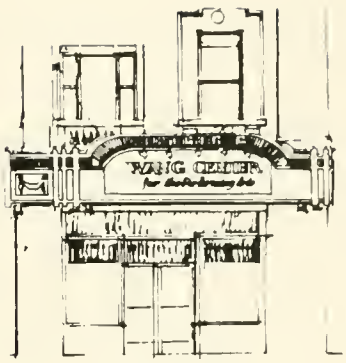


PARAMOUNT

OPERA HOUSE

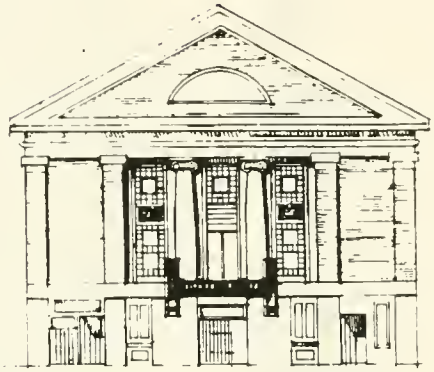


MODERN



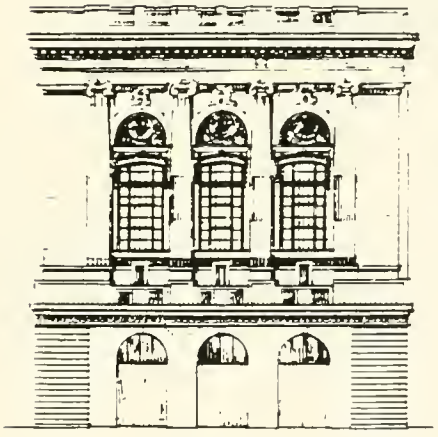
WANG CENTER

WILBUR

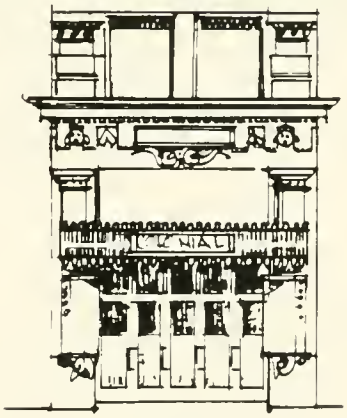


CHARLES STREET PLAYHOUSE

THEATER FACADES



SAXON

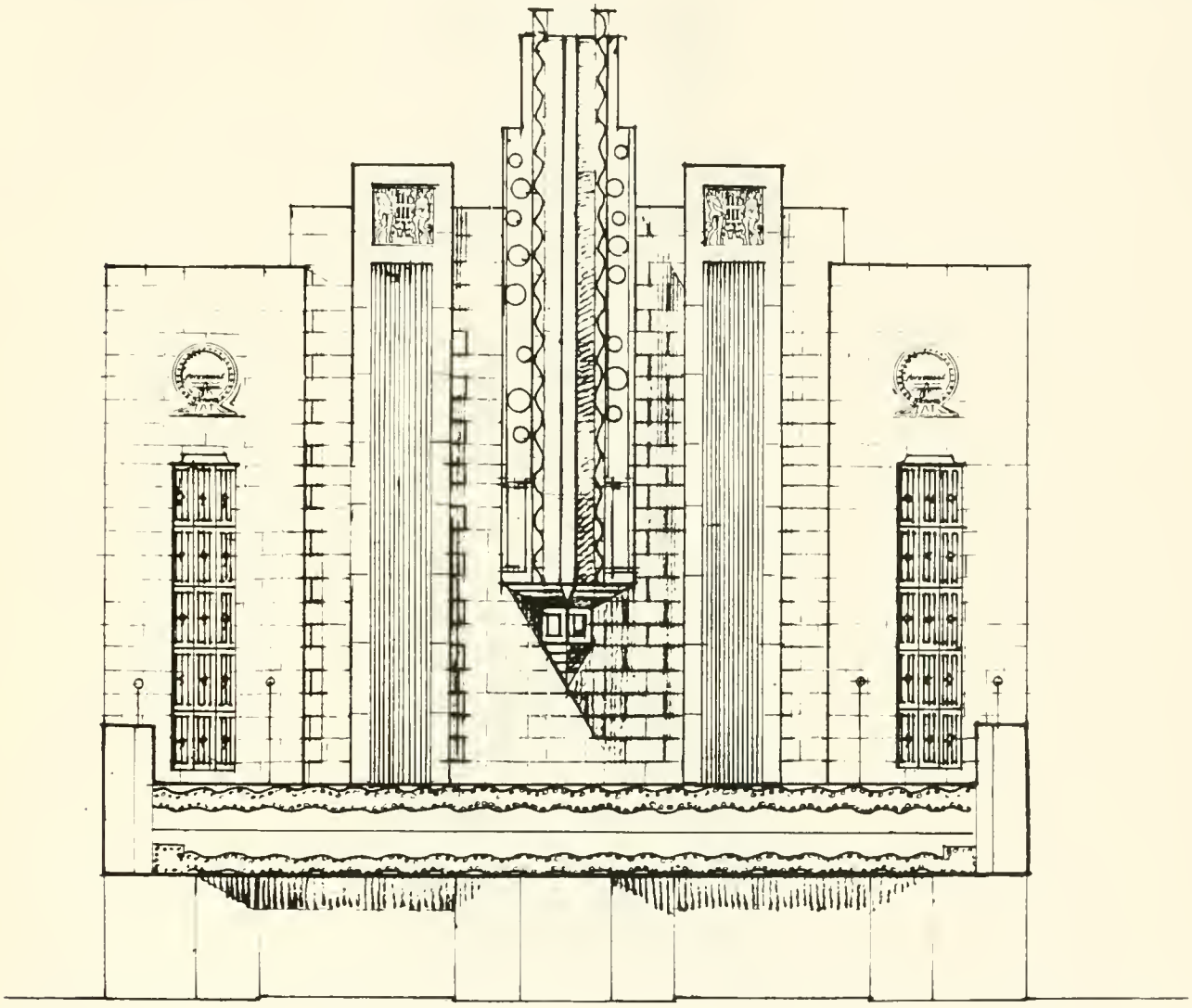


COLONIAL

SHUBERT

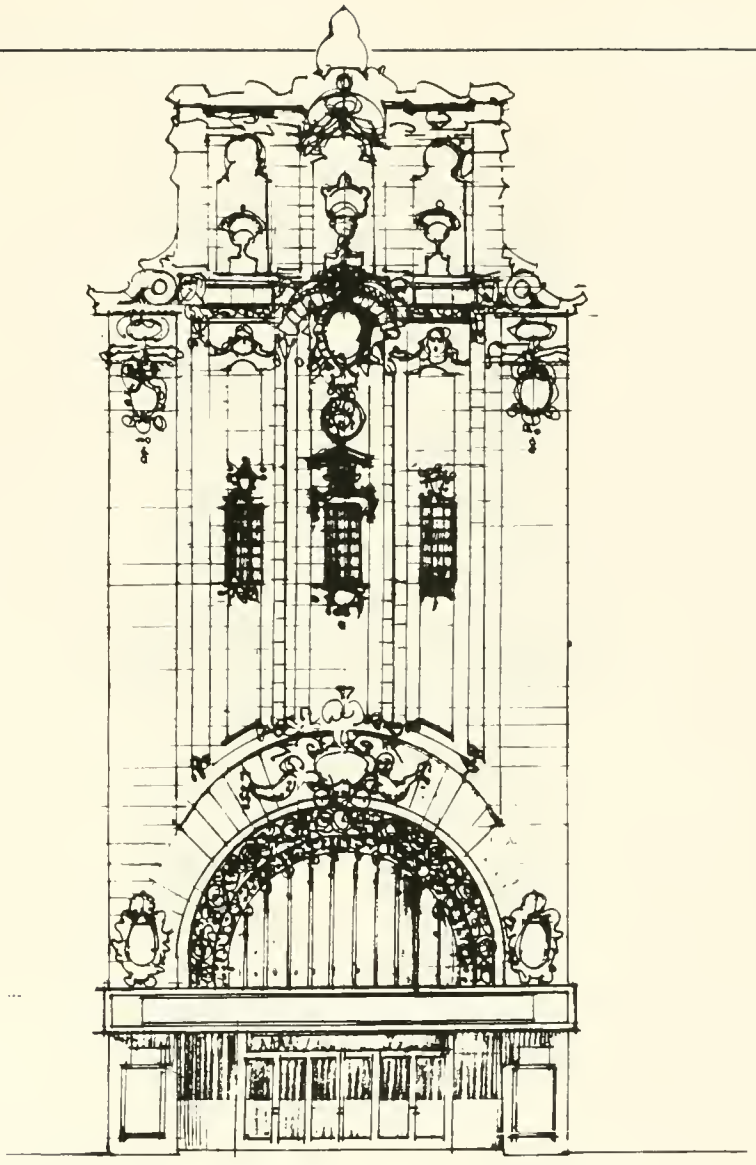
Historic Theaters

The identity of the Cultural District as an entertainment center dates back to the 19th century. The existing theaters were built for stage plays, vaudeville, burlesque, and movies over an 80 year period. These theaters represent the city's finest examples of every 20th century theater type. Historically, the area was also significant as the fashionable location for piano showrooms and music businesses which occupied the fine buildings along "Piano Row". The area achieved its greatest significance during the period from about 1890 to 1930 when most of the major surviving theaters and commercial buildings were constructed.



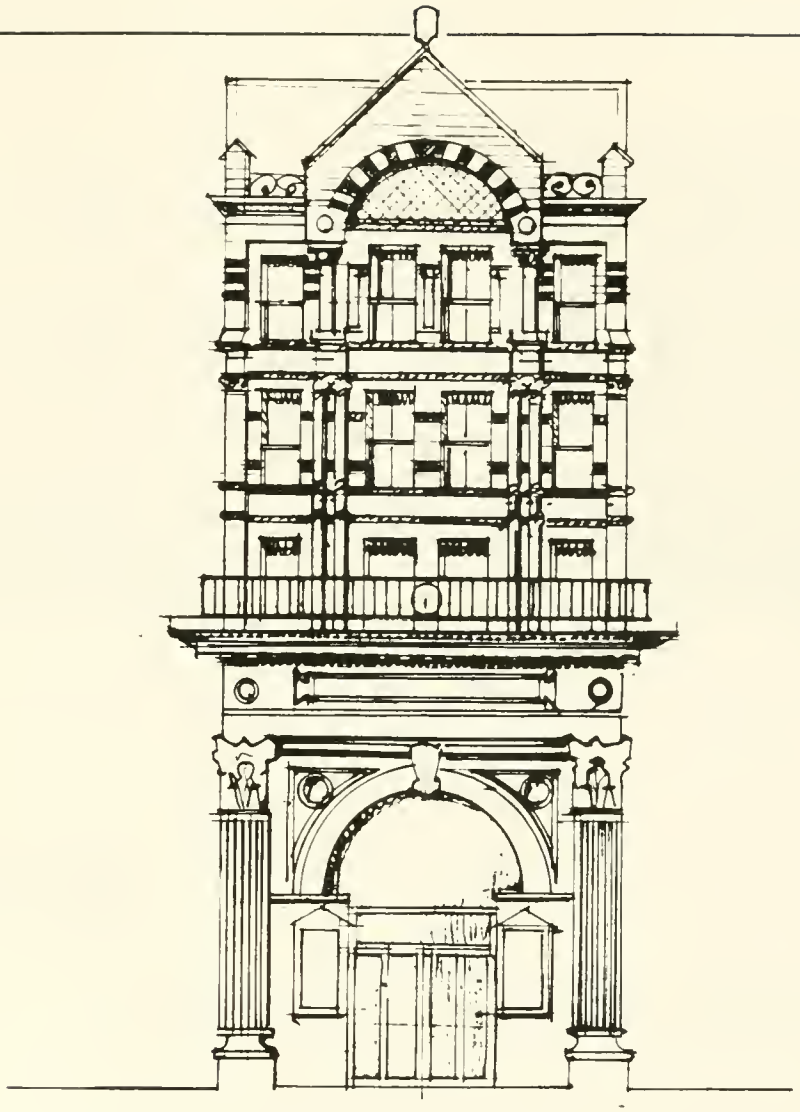
Paramount Theater
549-563 Washington Street
1,400 Seats
Build 1930-32

Style:	Modern theater facade with Art Deco sign and marquee, cast stone concrete; Art Deco interior.
Architect:	Arthur W. Bowditch, also designed Old South Building and Hotel Somerset
Originally:	Built exclusively for motion pictures.
Current Status:	Vacant; generally in tact, renovation and reuse is underway.
Historic Rating:	Designated Boston Landmarks, interior and exterior; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



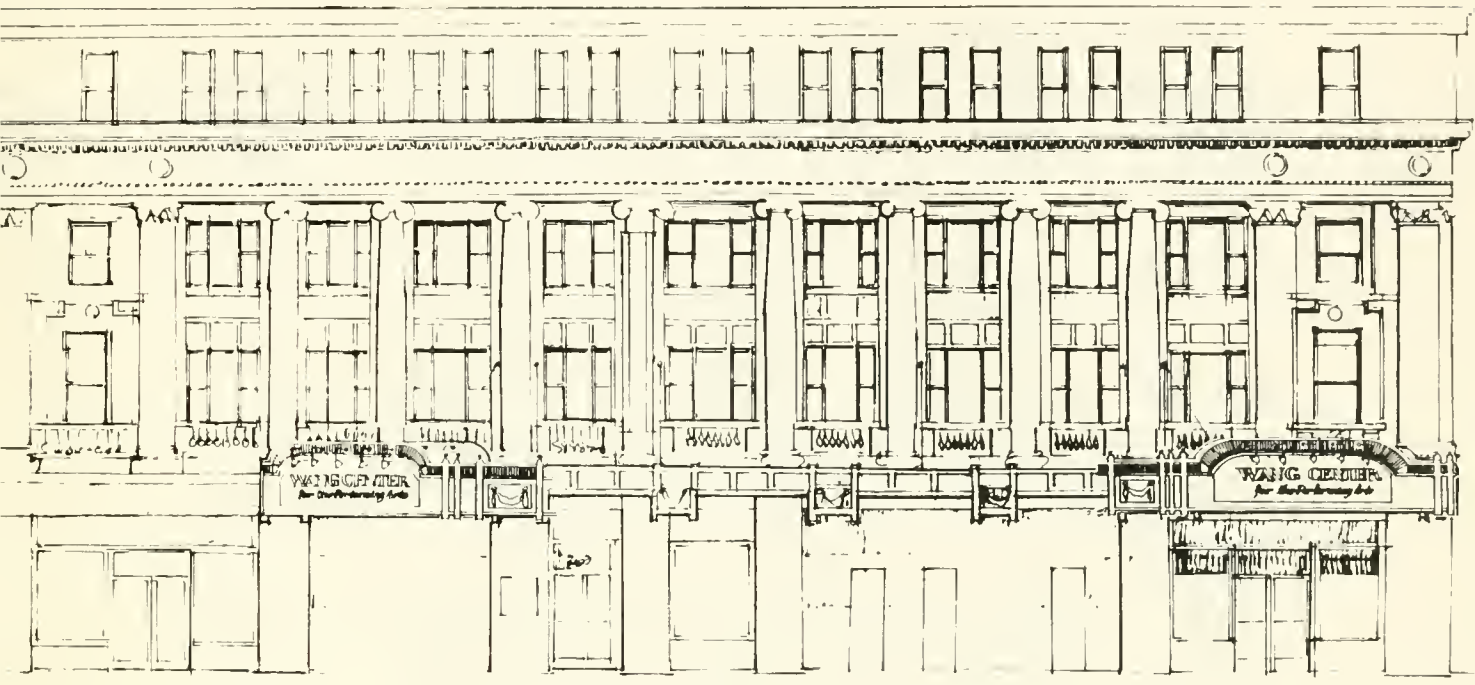
Opera House (Savoy
B.F. Keith Memorial)
539 Washington Street
3,200 seats, built 1925-28

Style:	narrow street facade - flamboyant terracotta Beaux Arts theatre entrance, Spanish baroque inspiration with garlands, cartouches, allegorical figures, urns, wreaths; French baroque interior
Architect:	Thomas Lamb, nationally prominent theater architect
Originally:	vaudeville and film playhouse to honor B.F. Keith, "father of vaudeville", 1929 to movies (Savoy)
Current status:	Opera House for non-profit Boston Opera Company
Historic rating:	Under study for designation as Boston Landmark; Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places.



Modern Theater (Dobson Building)
523-527 Washington Street
900 seats, built 1872,
theater 1913

Style:	high Victorian commercial building with 1913 marble classical entrance, sandstone and Vermont marble, "French Renaissance" interior
Architect:	1876 Levi Newcomb and Son, theater: Clarence H. Blackall, Wallace Sabine
Originally:	built as commercial building, in 1913 first Boston movie theater, later used for vaudeville and burlesque
Current status:	vacant
Historic rating:	Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places.

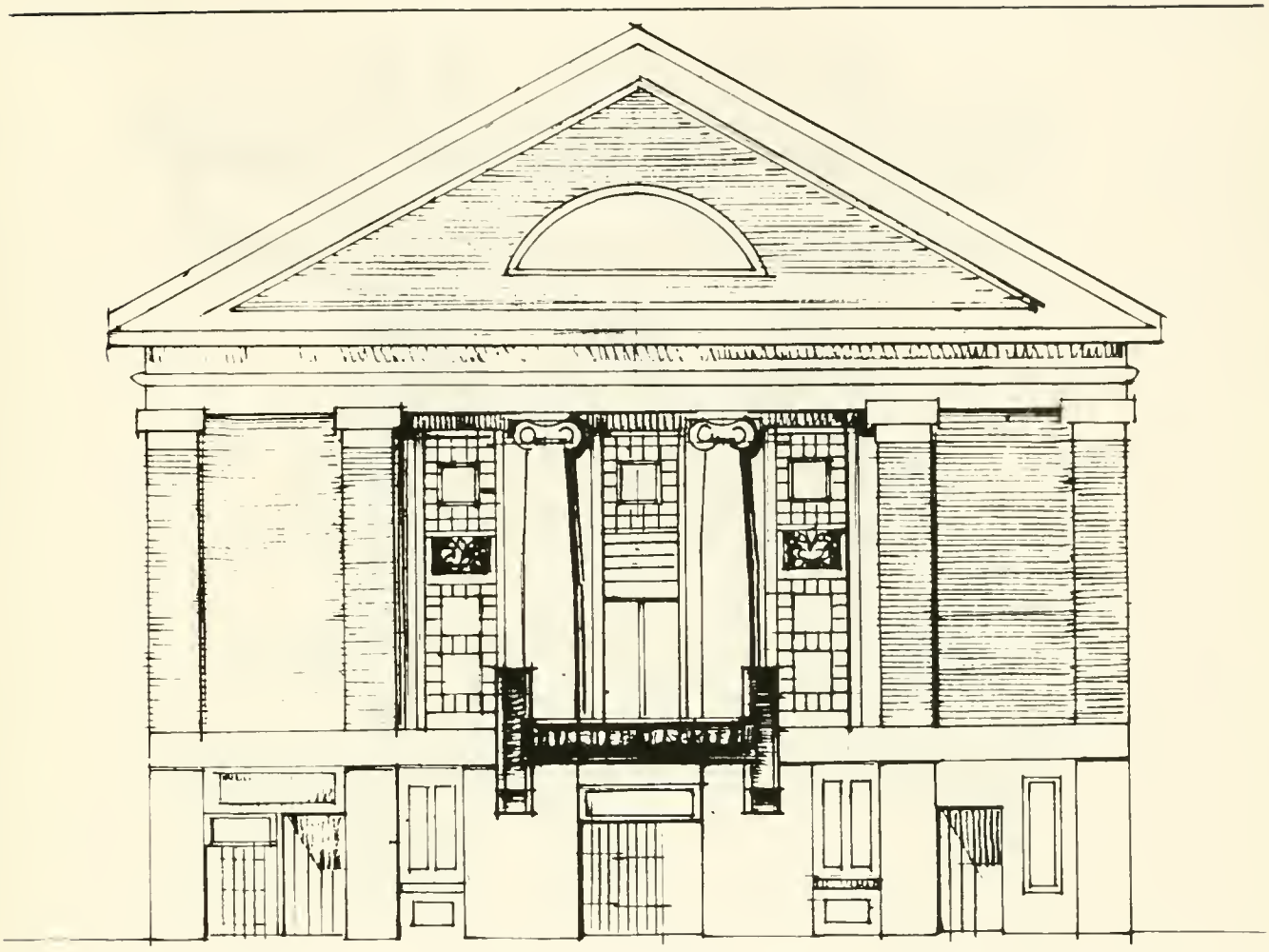


Wang Center (Music Hall, Metropolitan Theater)
252-272 Tremont Street
4,000 seats, built 1923-25

Style:	Renaissance Revival, 155' limestone "palazzo skyscraper", two-story ionic colonnade, Corinthian pilasters, theater masks along cornice, Louis XIV ornate interior
Architect:	Clarence H. Blackall, nationally prominent theater architect who designed 6 other district buildings
Originally:	promoted as "the public's castle" with "a thousand and one wonders" it included "the grand lobby with four tiers of promenades, spacious lounges, marble doorways, rose jasper pillers, two 1,800-lb. gold plated chandeliers, bronze details by the Gorham Company, and $10,000 in gems decorating the central mural painting by Edmund Philo Kellog....Waiting patrons could arrange for bridge parties, lounge in comfortable chairs with the latest magazines, promenade to the music of two lobby orchestras, play ping pong, or visit the chic art deco restaurant which opened in 1932."
Current status:	active, largest theater in Boston's history
Historic rating:	Boston Landmark designation pending; Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places.

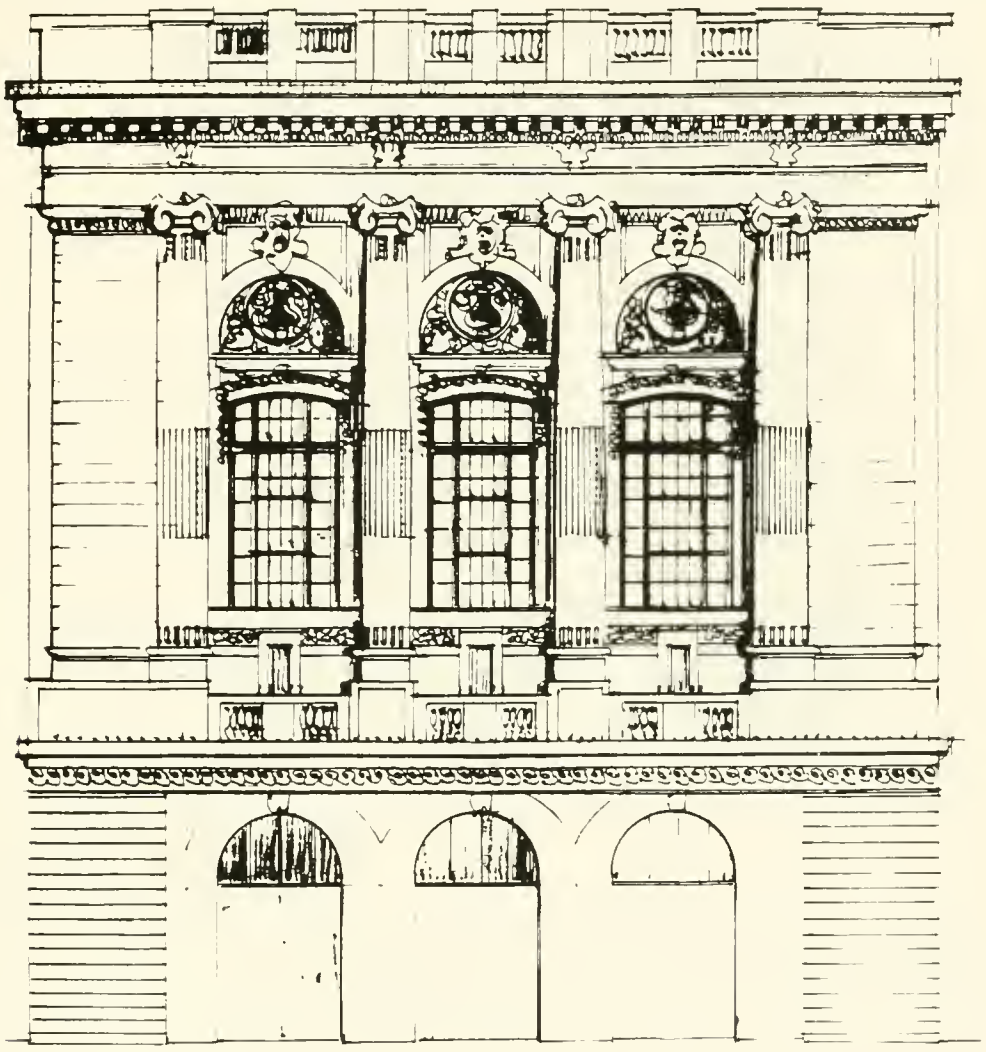
Wilbur Theatre
244-250 Tremont Street
1,200 seats, built 1913-14

Style:	Colonial Revival, red brick with marble trim including ionic columns, theatre masks above three arched, elongated windows
Architect:	Clarence H. Blackall, nationally prominent theater architect, who designed 6 other buildings in the district
Current status:	active commercial theater
Historic rating:	Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places. Under study (1986) for Boston Landmark designation.



Charles Playhouse
76-78 Warrenton Street
400 seats, 200 seats, 150 seats, built 1838-9

Style:	Greek Revival temple front - red brick
Architect:	Asher Benjamin who also designed Charles Street Meeting House and Old West Church and is famous for his builder's guidebooks which greatly influenced the spread of Federal and Greek Revival architecture throughout New England
Originally:	Fifth Universalist Church, then Hebrew Temple, then Scottish Presbyterian Church
Current status:	three small active theaters - the transformation of church to theater maintained the original facade and interior spaces but little interior detailing remains.
Historic rating:	Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places.

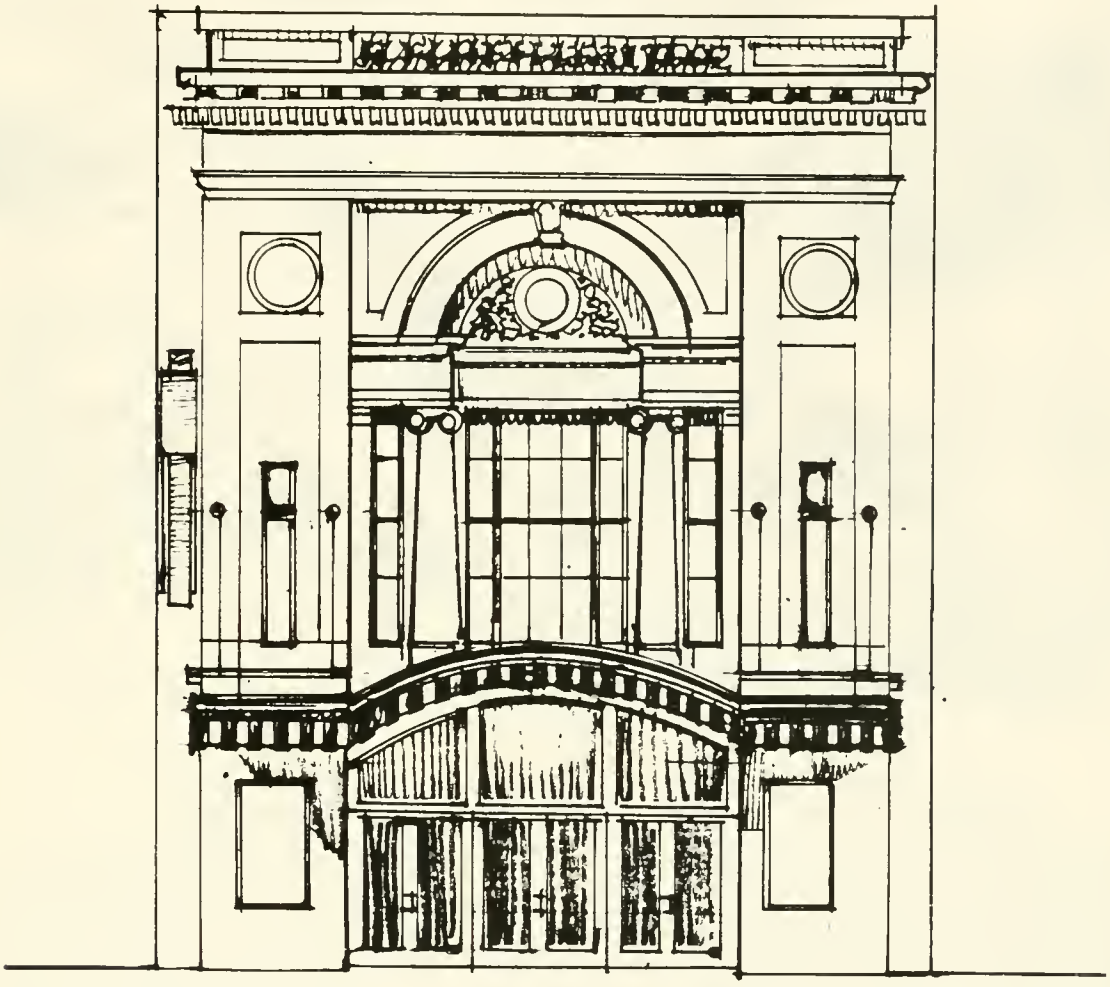


Saxon Theatre (Majestic)
219-221 Tremont Street
1,000 seats, built 1901-1903

Style:	Beaux Arts, granite base, grey terracotta, four 3-story Roman ionic columns, arches with theater masks and stained glass windows between columns, opulent rococo interior
Architect:	John Galen Howard and James M. Wood Interior - Henry B. Pennell Lobby murals by William deLeftwich Dodge who also painted Library of Congress murals
Originally:	used for musicals and light opera, converted to movie house 1957
Current status:	vacant
Historic rating:	Designated Boston landmark; interior Category II, exterior Category III. Listed in National Register of Historic Places.

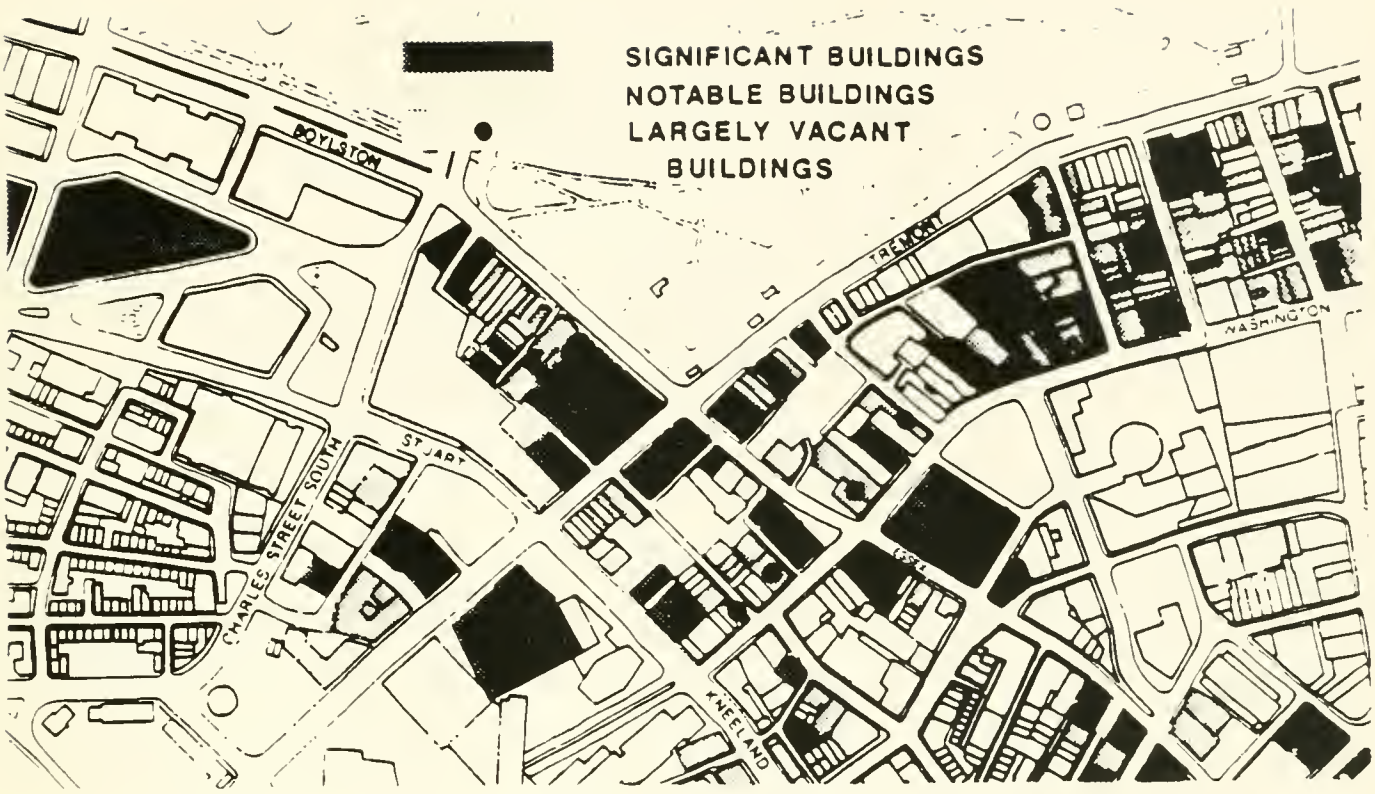
Colonial Building/Colonial Theatre
96-106 Boylston Street
1,700 seats, built 1899-1900

Style:	Renaissance Revival, 155' "palazzo skyscraper", Milford pink granite; rich, florid interior with Italian inspirations, unique series of murals
Architect:	Eminent theater architect, Clarence H. Blackall, H.B. Pennell (interior)
Current status:	active theater within office building, oldest intact theater in Boston
Historic rating:	Building category III, Theater Category II. Under study for designation as a Boston Landmark (1986).



Sam S. Shubert Theatre
263-265 Tremont Street
1,600 seats, built 1908-1910, present facade 1925

Style:	classically-inspired, two-story Palladian-motif window, original 1910 wrought iron, French "Adamesque" interior, and glass marquee
Architect:	Hill, James and Whitaker, Thomas M. James, principal architect also designed Union Warren Savings on same street
Originally:	theatrical high points have included the first Boston performances of British actors John Gieguld, Maurice Evans, Sir Laurence Olivier, and the 1917 performance by John Barrymore, one of the greatest 19th century American actors.
Current status:	active commercial theater
Historic rating:	Category III, listed in National Register of Historic Places



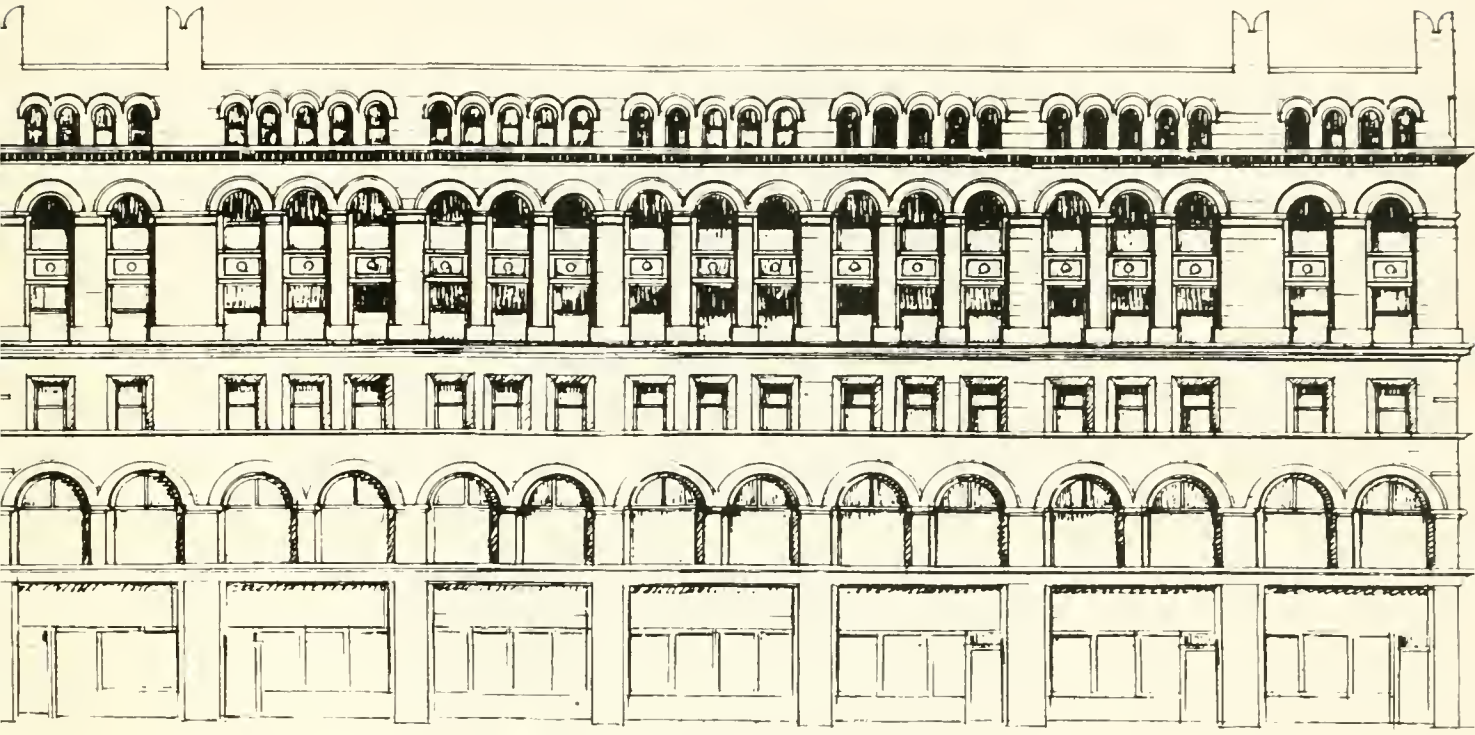
Boston Landmarks Commission Rating and Designation

The Boston Landmarks Commission has undertaken a survey of historic buildings within the downtown and has rated them as "significant" (in three hierarchical categories) or "notable". City policy protects significant historic properties from demolition and adverse alteration while encouraging the preservation of notable historic properties. The Boston Landmarks Commission also designates as Boston Landmarks exceptional historic properties which cannot be demolished and which must have systematic design review before being altered.

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

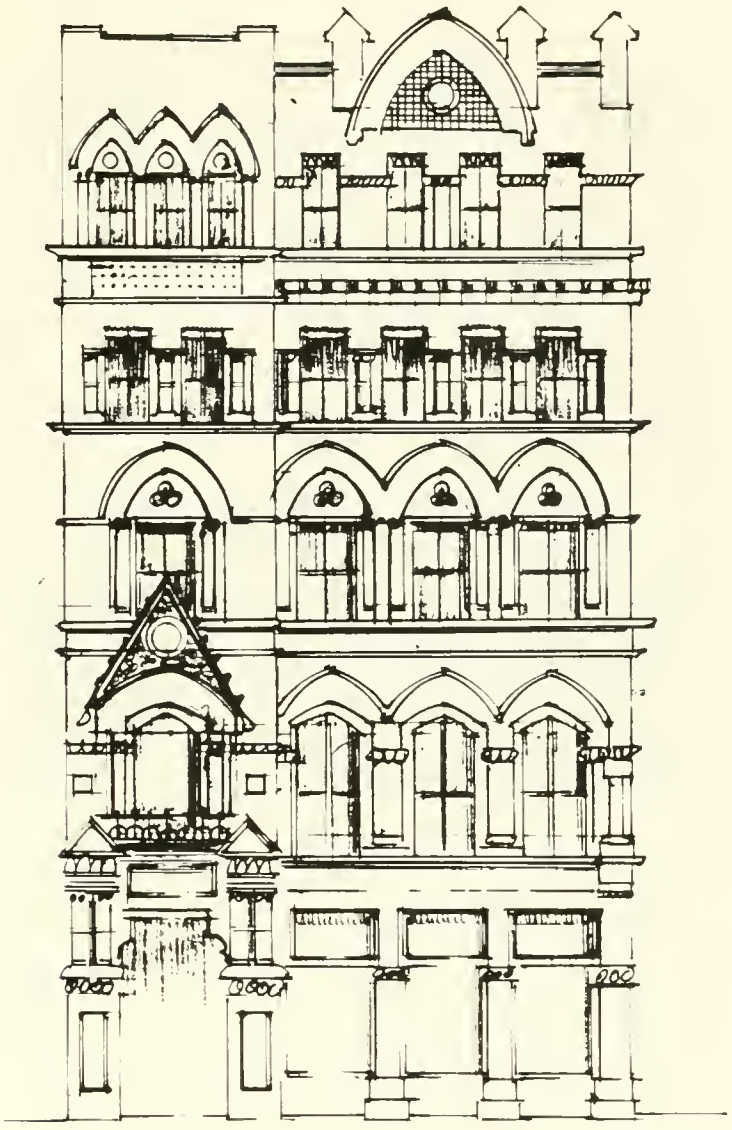
HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORIES 1 & 2

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
162	Boylston Street	Steinert Building		Piano Row
2-22	Boylston Street	China Trade Center		
48	Boylston Street	Young Men's Christian Union	*	
96-106	Boylston Street	Colonial Theater		Piano Row
31-39	Stuart Street	Jacob Wirth Building	*	
219-221	Tremont Street	Saxon Theater		Piano Row
244-250	Tremont Street	Wilbur Theater	*	
252-272	Tremont Street	Wang Center/Metropolitan Center		
76-78	Warrenton Street	Charles Playhouse		
539	Washington Street	Opera House/Savoy Theatre		Washington Street
549-563	Washington Street	Paramount Theater	*	Washington Street
628-636	Washington Street	Liberty Tree Building	*	Liberty Tree
681-683	Washington Street	Hayden Building	*	



China Trade Center
(Boylston Building)
2-22 Boylston Street
Built 1887

Style:	19th century commercial structure with Renaissance and Romanesque detailing, Nova Scotia sandstone
Architect:	Carl Fehmer
Current status:	renovated for the China Trade Center shops and food court with 6-story atrium
Historic rating:	Designated Boston Landmark; Category II, listed in National Register of Historic Places.

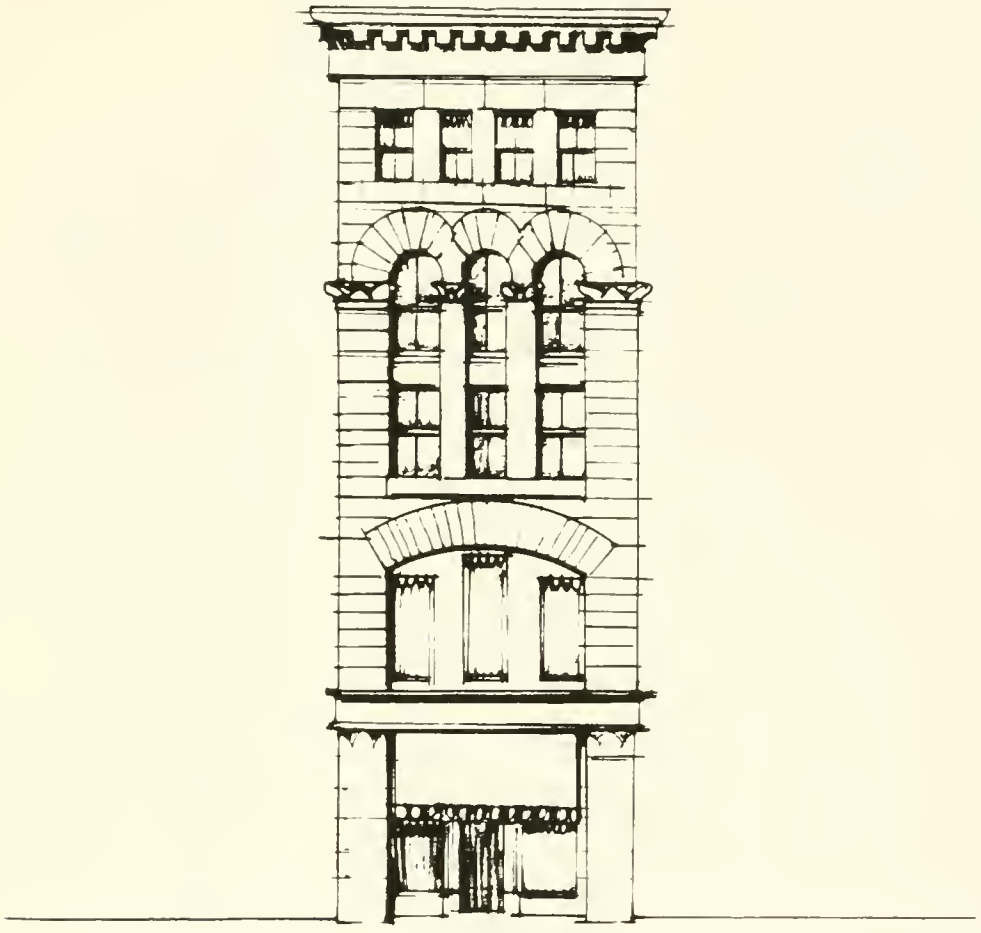


(Y.M.C.U.) Boston Young Men's
Christian Union
48 Boylston Street
Built 1875

Style:	High Victorian, granite and sandstone
Architect:	N.J. Bradlee
Current Status:	Continues as recreational and fellowship organization with gymnasium and meeting rooms; Y.M.C.U would like to renovate and expand.
Historic Rating:	Designated Boston Landmark; Category II; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Jacob Wirth Buildings
31-39 Stuart Street
Built 1844-45

Style:	Attached brick, Greek Revival rowhouses with bow front bay windows.
Architect:	Developer housewrights Greenleaf C. Sanborn, Thatcher Ross and Thomas C. Wait
Originally:	Built as rental units for "gentlemen"
Current Status:	Restaurant of authentic German food
Historic Rating:	Category II; designated Boston Landmark; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Hayden Building
681-683 Washington Street
Built 1875

Style:	Romanesque with characteristically Richardsonian features.
Architect:	H.H. Richardon, eminent architect, one of his few commercial buildings.
Current Status:	Vacant
Historic Rating:	Designated Boston Landmark; Category II; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

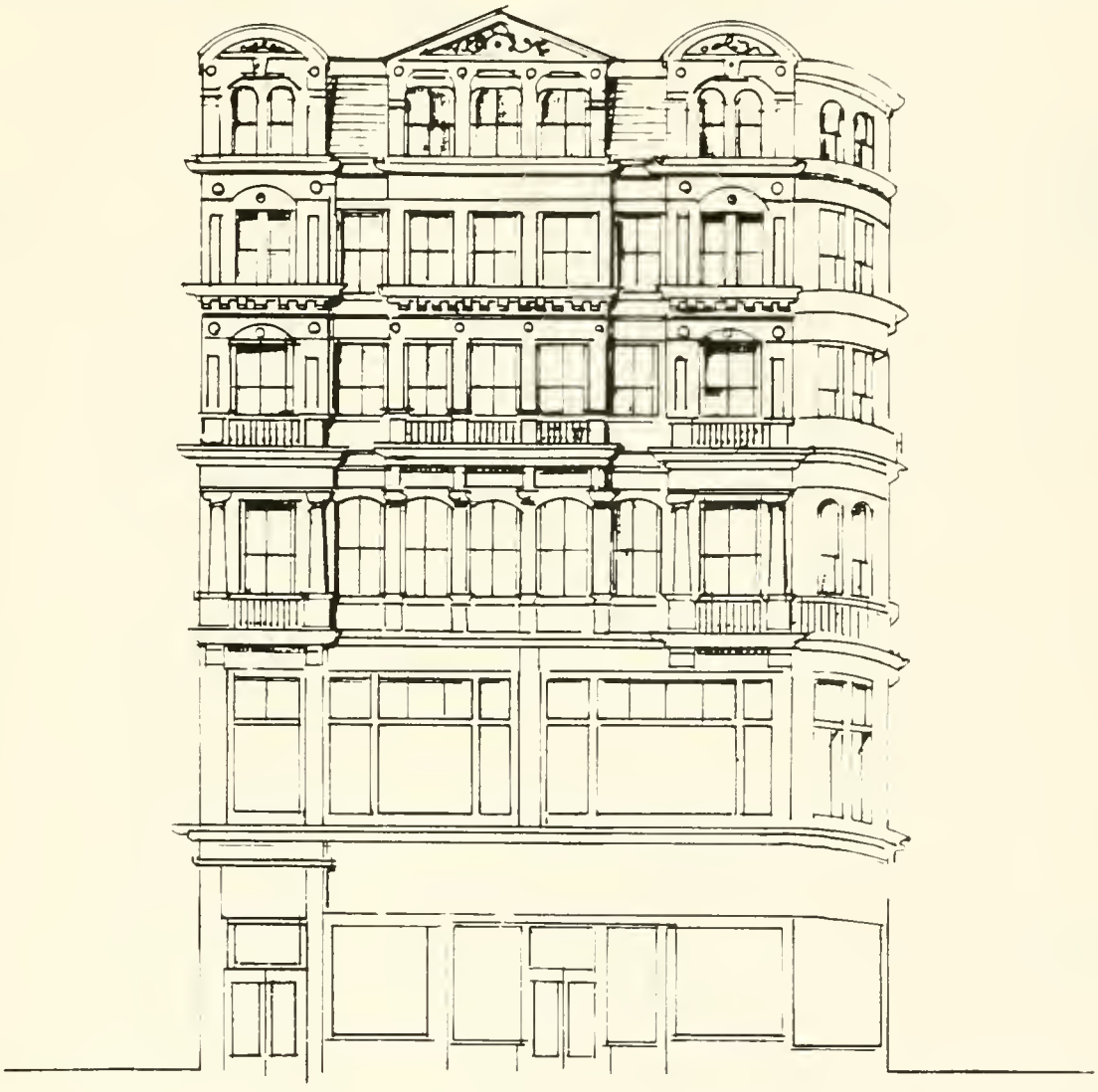
HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORY 3

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
7-15	Beach Street	Shakespearian Inn		Beach/Knapp
3	Boylston Place	Ancient Landmark Bldg.		Piano Row
4	Boylston Place	Tavern Club		Piano Row
5-6	Boylston Place	Tavern Club Annex		Piano Row
114-116	Boylston Street	Walker Building		Piano Row
62	Boylston Street	Touraine Building		Piano Row
74-94	Boylston Street	Little Building		Piano Row
115-117	Chauncy Street	Chauncy House		
11-13	Essex Street	11-13 Essex Street		Liberty Tree
16-17	Essex Street	15-17 Essex Street		Liberty Tree
2	Park Square	2 Park Square		Piano Row
3	Park Square	3 Park Square		Piano Row
4	Park Square	4 Park Square		Piano Row
11-25	Stuart Street	Dill Building		
150	Tremont Street	Lawrence Building		West Street
174-175	Tremont Street	Evans Building		Piano Row
178-179	Tremont Street	Oliver Ditson Building		Piano Row
183-186	Tremont Street	Masonic Temple		Piano Row
263-265	Tremont Street	Shubert Theater		
511-513	Washington Street	Bigelow-Kennard Building		Washington Street
523-527	Washington Street	Modern Theater (Dobson Bldg.)		Washington Street

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORY 3 (cont'd)

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
543-547	Washington Street	Adams House Annex		Washington Street
590-600	Washington Street	600 Washington Street		
590-600	Washington Street	Essex Theatre - 600 Washington		
605-611	Washington Street	Miller Piano-forte Est.		
638-644	Washington Street	Brewster Hotel		Beach/Knapp



Piano-forte Building
605-11 Washington Street
Built 1875

Style:	Renaissance Revival; modern storefront
Architect:	Unknown
Originally:	Headquarters of the Henry F. Miller Piano-forte establishment, a major Boston piano company known nationwide; it is one of the six remaining cast iron buildings marked on the 1888 Bromley Atlas
Current status:	Retail, second hand store; upper floors vacant
Historic rating:	Category III

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORY 4

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
120-124	Boylston Street	Walker Bldg. Addition		Piano Row
130-132	Boylston Street	Tucker Building		Piano Row
130-132	Boylston Street	S.S. White Dental Bldg.		Piano Row
144	Boylston Street	Mansfield Beauty Academy		Piano Row
25-39	Boylston Street	Boston Edison Illumination Co.		
154-156	Boylston Street	154-156 Boylston Street		Piano Row
58-60	Charles Street	58-60 Charles Street		
76-82	Charles Street	Milner Hotel		
105-111	Chauncy Street	Frost Building		
90-100	Chauncy Street	Wentworth Building		
25-31	Essex Street	Essex Hotel		Liberty Tree
62-72	Essex Street	62-72 Essex Street		
19-25	Harrison Avenue	19-25 Harrison Avenue		
10	Haymarket Place	10 Haymarket Place		
12-18	La Grange Street	12-18 La Grange Street		
15-17	La Grange Street	15-17 La Grange Street		
19-21	La Grange Street	19-21 La Grange Street		
64-88	Mason Street	Herald Traveler Building		
75	Stuart Street	75 Stuart Street		
164	Tremont Street	164 Tremont Street		
167	Tremont Street	167 Tremont Street		

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

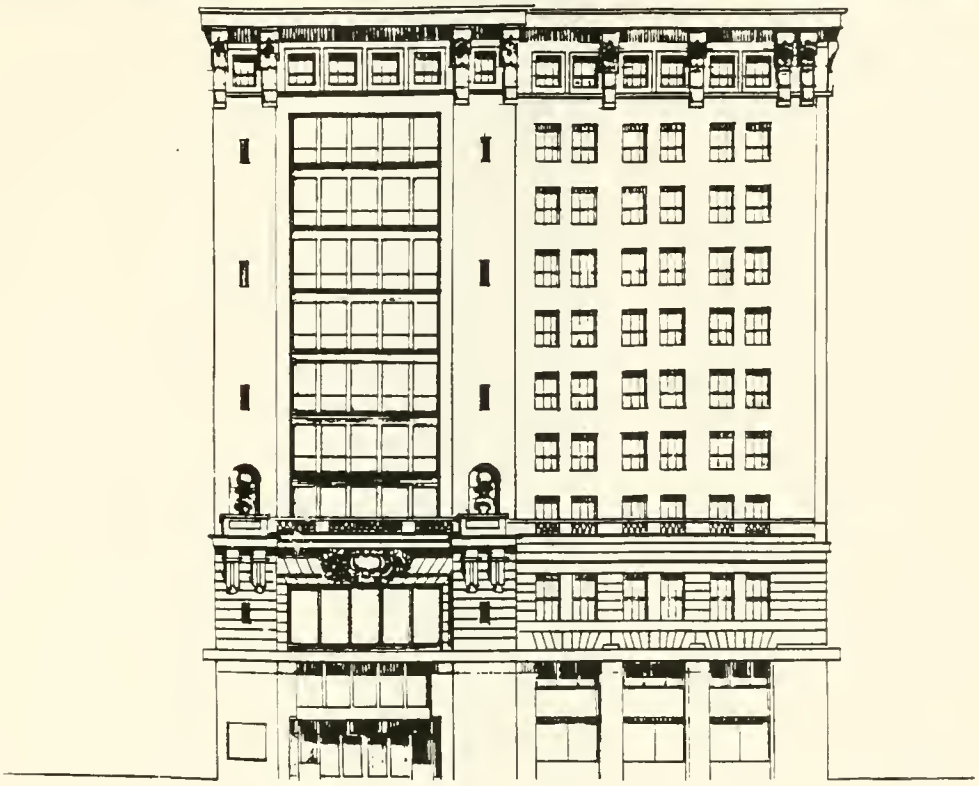
HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORY 4 (cont'd)

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
180-182	Tremont Street	Boston Edison Illumination Co.		Piano Row
216-218	Tremont Street	Union Warren Savings Bank		Piano Row
220-222	Tremont Street	220-222 Tremont Street		
226	Tremont Street	226 Tremont Street		
253-261	Tremont Street	253-261 Tremont Street		
271-279	Tremont Street	Bradford Hotel		
90-92	Warrenton Street	Hotel Hampden		
94-102	Warrenton Street	Nick's Restaurant		
515-521	Washington Street	The White Building		Washington Street
531-535	Washington Street	Adams House Restaurant		Washington Street
593-595	Washington Street	Hotel Avery		Washington Street
619-631	Washington Street	State Theater		
646	Washington Street	Pray Building		
650	Washington Street	Pilgrim Theater		
659-655	Washington Street	Publix Theater		
660-672	Washington Street	660-672 Washington St.		
680-684	Washington Street	680-684 Washington St.		
688-692	Washington Street	Globe Theater		
694-702	Washington Street	Stuart Theater		
177	Tremont Street	Harry Kraft Building		Piano Row

MIDTOWN DISTRICT / CULTURAL DISTRICT

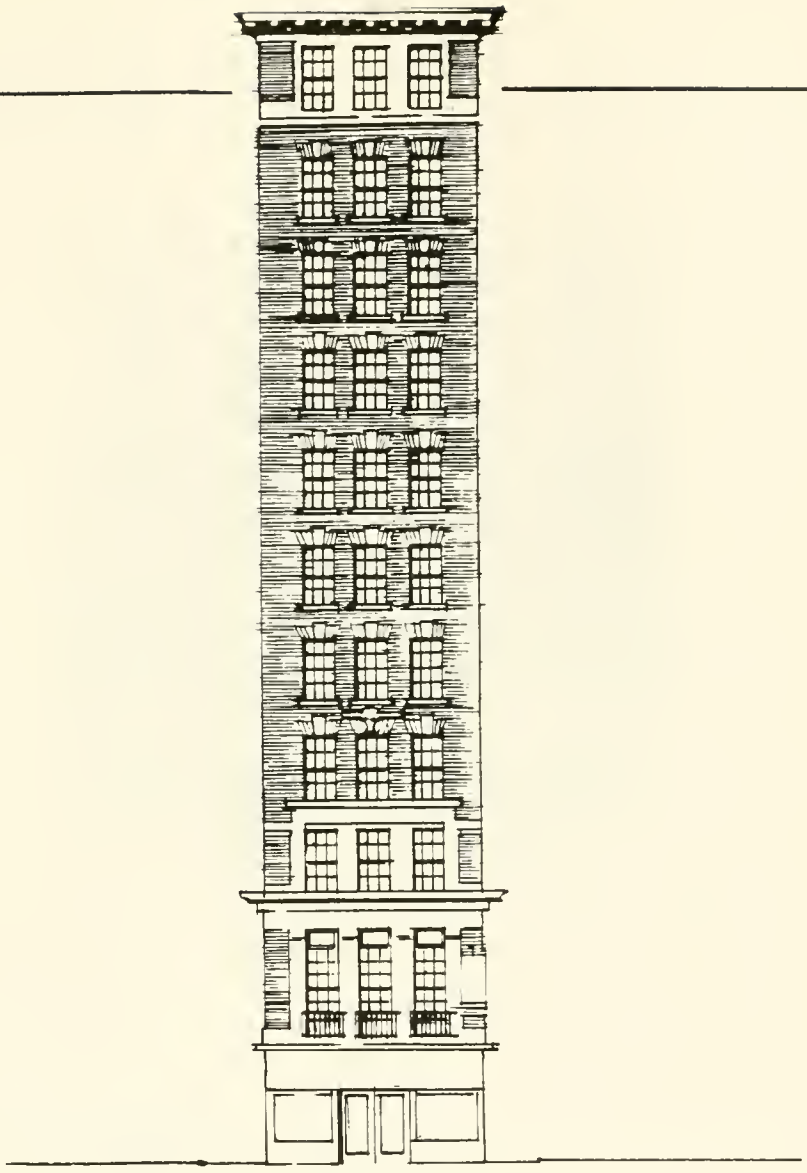
HISTORIC BUILDINGS - CATEGORY 4 (cont'd)

Street		Building	Land-Mark	National Register District
16-32	West Street	Schrafft's-Fabyan Building		West St.
34-50	West Street	34-50 West Street		West St.



Boston Edison Electric Company
25-39 Boylston Street
#23-27 built 1906-7; #33 built 1922

Style:	Early skyscraper with Beaux Arts detailing; limestone.
Architect:	The partnership of Winslow & Bigelow designed the main building (#23-27) and were responsible for the design of many large, commercial buildings in Boston such as the Walker Building Addition, the Oliver Ditson Building and South Terminal. The addition at #33-39 was designed by the successor firm of Bigelow & Wadsworth.
Originally:	Built as the Boston Edison Electric Illuminating Company headquarters.
Current Status:	St. Francis House Shelter
Historic Rating:	Category IV; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Hotel Avery
589-95 Washington Street
Built 1914

Style:	Eclectic Colonial Revival commercial building
Architect:	Clarence H. Blackall & Hurd & Gore; Blackall, a prominent Boston architect, is well known for his theater architecture and was responsible for designing the Wilbur, Modern, Pilgrim, Publix and Metropolitan theaters.
Originally:	A first class hotel
Current Status:	Vacant
Historic Rating:	Category IV

Publix Theatre (Gayety)
659-665 Washington Street
1,700 seats, built 1908

Style:	"Tapestry Brick" facade, baroque interior
Architect:	Clarence H. Blackall
Originally:	built for "high class vaudeville" and burlesque
Current status:	vacant
Historic rating:	Category IV

MIDTOWN AREA

DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category I & II

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
22-26	Bromfield Street	22-26 Bromfield Street	*	
28-30	Bromfield Street	28-30 Bromfield Street	*	
32-38	Bromfield Street	Wesleyan Association Bldg.		
7-9	Hamilton Place	7-9 Hamilton Place		
15-17	Milk Street	Boston Post Building		Newspaper Row
136	Tremont Street	St. Paul's Cathedral		
322-328	Washington Street	Boston Transcript Building		Newspaper Row
384-426	Washington Street	Filene's		
3-4	Winter Place	Locke'Ober's		

MIDTOWN AREA

DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category III

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
42-48	Chauncy Street	42-48 Chauncy Street		
6.5	Hamilton Place	Orpheum/Music Hall		
24-32	School Street	24-32 School Street		
56-72	School Street	Parker House		
29-35	Temple Place	29-35 Temple Place		
32-36	Temple Place	32-36 Temple Place		
37-43	Temple Place	Gardner Building		
48-50	Temple Place	48-50 Temple Place		
138-140	Tremont Street	138-140 Tremont Street		
76-88	Tremont Street	Tremont Street		
371-379	Washington Street	Jeweler's Building		
431-439	Washington Street	431-43 Washington Street		
485-499	Washington Street	485-499 Washington Street		

MIDTOWN AREA

DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category III

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
13-15	West Street	13-15 West Street		
20-24	West Street	Stowell's		

MIDTOWN AREA

DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category IV

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
12	Bosworth Street	12 Bosworth Street		
13-14	Bosworth Street	Sargent Building		
40-44	Bromfield Street	Publicity Building		
46-56	Bromfield Street	New Studio Building		
60-64	Bromfield Street	60-64 Bromfield Street		
22-40	Chauncy Street	22-40 Chauncy Street		
19-23	Milk Street	Goddard Building		Newspaper Row
32-54	Province Street	Hutchinson Building		
13-15	School Street	13-15 School Street		
19-21	School Street	19-21 School Street		
42-52	School Street	Waterman Building		
25-27	Temple Place	25-27 Temple Place		
45-47	Temple Place	45-47 Temple Place		
52-56	Temple Place	First National Bank		

MIDTOWN AREA

DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category IV

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
53-55	Temple Place	Singer Building		
100-102	Tremont Street	Paddock Building		
118-122	Tremont Street	Phillips Building		
129	Tremont Street	129 Tremont Street		
130	Tremont Street	Thomas Building		
147	Tremont Street	Shreve, Crump & Low Building		
381	Washington Street	Washington Building		
332-334	Washington Street	332-334 Washington Street		Newspaper Row
391-405	Washington Street	391-405 Washington Street		
407-411	Washington Street	I.J. Fox Building		
413-415	Washington Street	Orpheum Theater Entry		
417-425	Washington Street	Gilchrist's Department Store		
427-429	Washington Street	427-429 Washington Street		
447-449	Washington Street	447-449 Washington Street		

MIDTOWN AREA

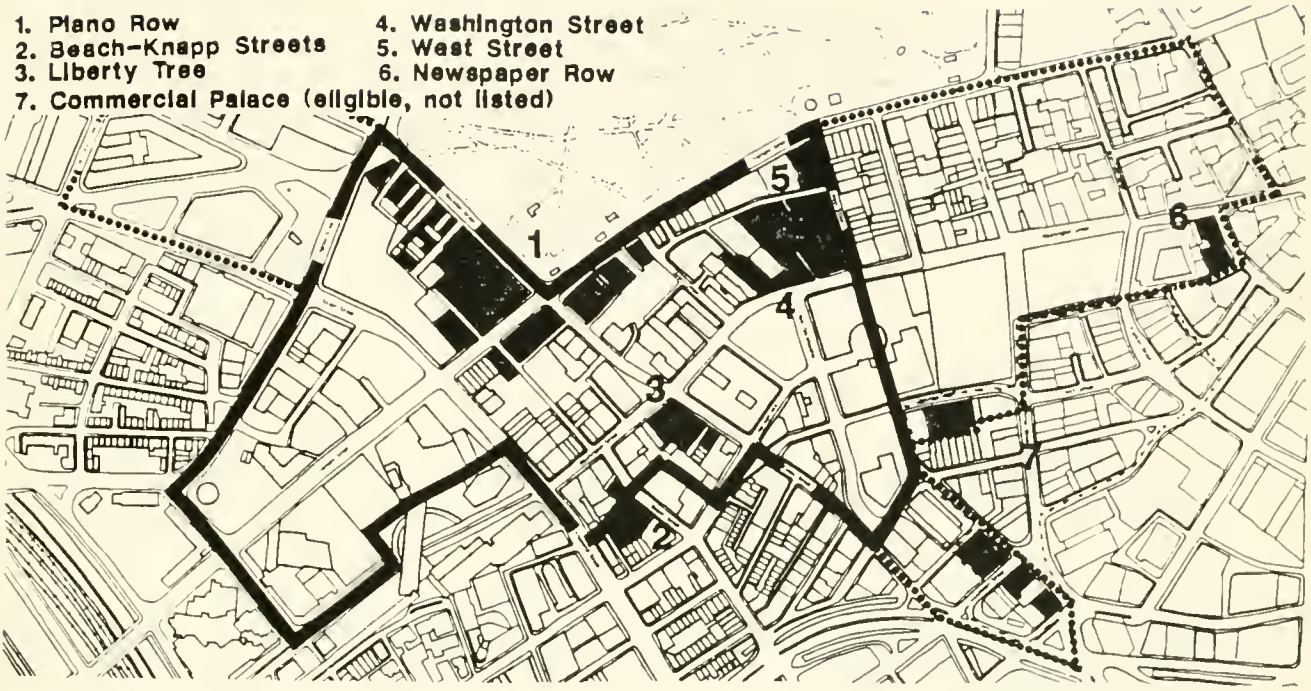
DOWNTOWN CROSSING
Historic Buildings - Category IV

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
451-463	Washington Street	Dexter Building		
501-509	Washington Street	Armory Building		
25-31	West Street	25-31 West Street		
41-43	West Street	41-43 West Street		
1-2	Winter Place	1-2 Winter Place		
12-14	Winter Street	12-14 Winter Street		
13-15	Winter Street	13-15 Winter Street		
17-19	Winter Street	Conrad/Chandler's Building		
31-33	Winter Street	31-33 Winter Street		
35-41	Winter Street	Reynold's Building		
38-40	Winter Street	38-40 Winter Street		
43-45	Winter Street	Homer Building		
9-11	Winter Street	9-11 Winter Street		

MIDTOWN AREA

ESSEX/KINGSTON STREET
Historic Buildings - Category II - IV

Street		Building	Landmark	National Register District
115-117	Bedford Street	115-117 Bedford Street		
119-121	Bedford Street	119-121 Bedford Street		
119-121	Bedford Street	119-121 Bedford Street		
131-135	Bedford Street	131-135 Bedford Street		
137-141	Bedford Street	137-141 Bedford Street		
89-103	Bedford Street	Bedford Building	*	
88-100	Kingston Street	88-100 Kingston Street		
22-24	Lincoln Street	22-24 Lincoln Street		
26-32	Lincoln Street	26-32 Lincoln Street		



National Register of Historic Places

Within the Midtown Area there are several National Register Districts. The National Register of Historic Places, compiled by the U.S. Department of the Interior, serves to identify properties which are considered as national cultural resources. While listing of a property in the National Register has no official effect on strictly private actions, it calls attention to the historic value of the building. Any federally licensed or assisted projects which affect a property listed in the National Register must undergo extensive review.

Beach/Knapp District

Established in 1980 as a National Register District, the Beach/Knapp area is composed of six buildings located on two side streets between Lower Washington Street and the Harrison Avenue edge of Chinatown. The buildings reflect the historical development of the area from residential to mixed commercial and light industrial/warehouse uses. They are architecturally significant as fine examples of particular building types, including Greek Revival rowhouses and brick "loft" buildings. Also in the area is the former "Shakespearian Inn" (renovated for housing) with its unusual four-story iron oriels, elaborate cast iron capitals and cast iron plaque of the hotel's namesake.

Commercial Palace*

* The district has been submitted and determined as eligible by the Secretary of the Interior. However, it will not become an official district until such time when district property owners re-vote to allow final designation.

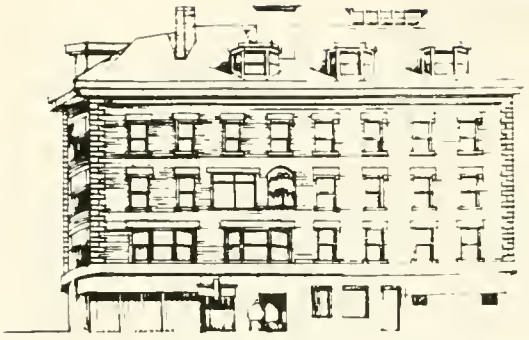
History of the Commercial Palace District shows that it was once a fashionable residential area prior to becoming the most active drygoods district of the northeast during the Civil War. In 1872 the entire district was destroyed by fire and was immediately rebuilt with similar mass and scale. The winding street pattern dates back to the Colonial period is, in itself, significant and has remained unchanged. The Bedford Building (85-105 Bedford Street) is a significant structure as one of the few examples of Ruskian Gothic architecture in the polychromatic style in Boston.

Newspaper Row

Newspaper Row is a group of four contiguous commercial buildings located on Washington, Milk and Hawley Streets. All four buildings are the work of major Boston architects and represent the high quality of architecture following the Great Fire of 1872. They are all that remain of the once larger publishing district that thrived during the 19th century. During this period, the Transcript (Transscript Building, 5-11 Milk Street) was the largest circulatory daily in New England and the Post (Boston Post Building, 15-17 Milk Street) was Boston's leading democratic newspaper. The Post and the Transcript buildings are the only remaining monuments to this district which helped establish Boston as an important printing and publishing center.

West Street Historic District

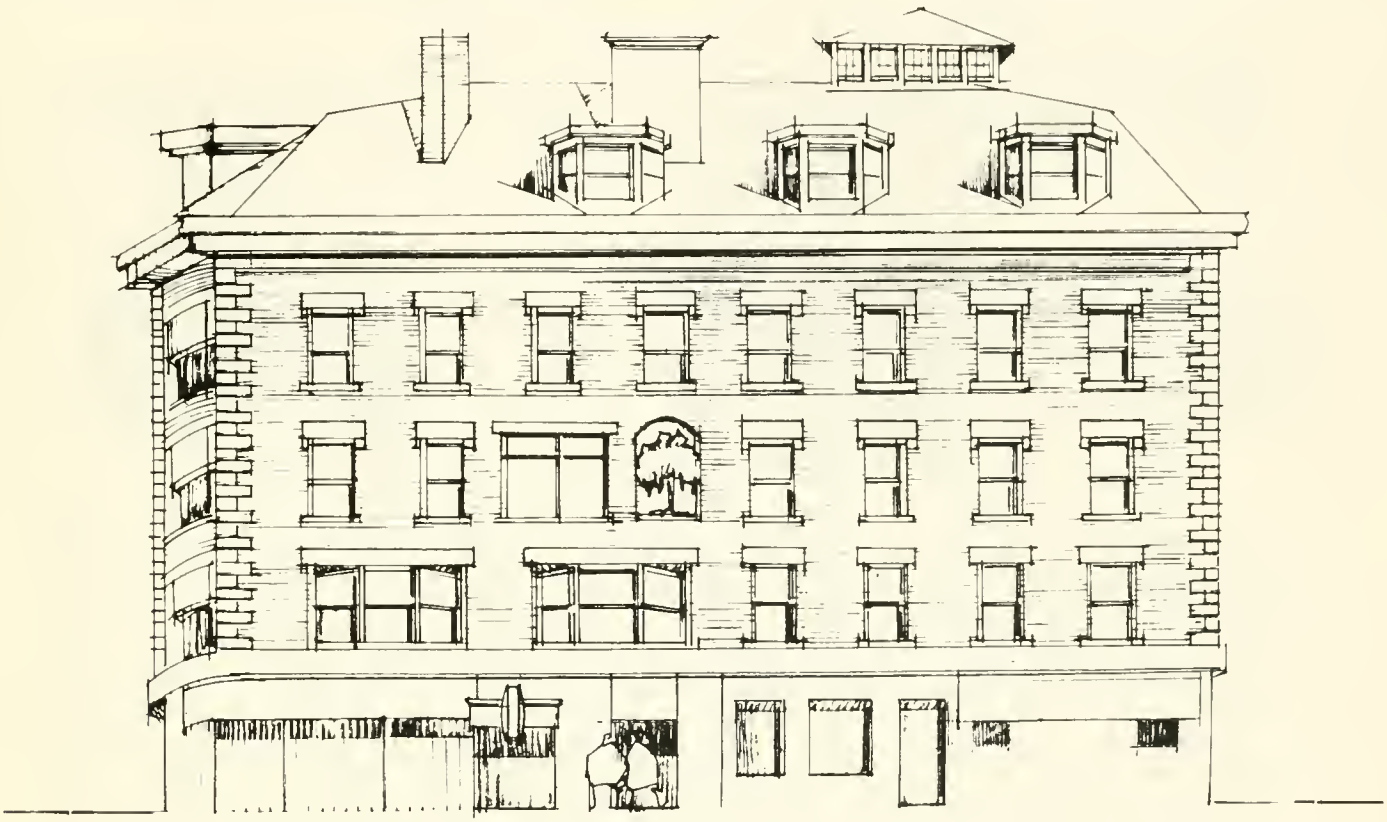
The West Street district is composed of four early 20th century commercial buildings located at the northern edge of the Cultural District, close to the heart of the downtown retail shopping area. Two of the buildings face Tremont Street and two are located on the south side of West Street. The buildings are of high architectural quality and illustrate important trends in the history of Boston's retail shopping trade. The limestone facades along the south side of West Street, for example, are unusual in their harmony of scale and materials and the intact quality of several of the cast iron storefronts.



LIBERTY TREE BUILDING

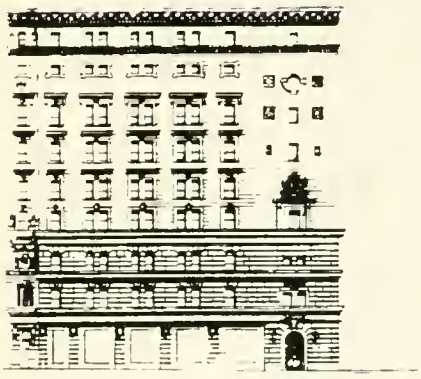
Liberty Tree District

During the pre-Revolutionary War period, demonstrations against British rule were commonly held at the corner of Washington and Essex Streets, the site of the magnificent American elm known as the Liberty Tree and the Liberty Tree Tavern. The Liberty Tree district consists of six mid-to-late 19th century commercial buildings forming one corner of this prominent intersection. Across the street from this grouping, the Boylston Building, renovated for the China Trade Center, stands behind a park where the Liberty Tree once stood.

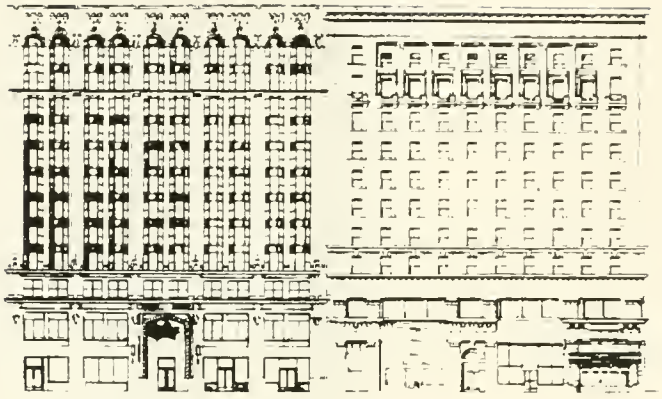


Liberty Tree Building
628-636 Washington Street
Built 1850

Style:	19th century commercial bloc, red brick, brownstone trim, carved wooden Liberty Tree plaque set in niche
Architect:	Amos Cotting, Supervisor
Originally:	Built in shops with two upper floor halls - 30'x75' and 40'x80' (Union Hall)
Current Status:	Largely vacant
Historic rating:	Category II; listed in National Register of Historic Places; designated Boston Landmark



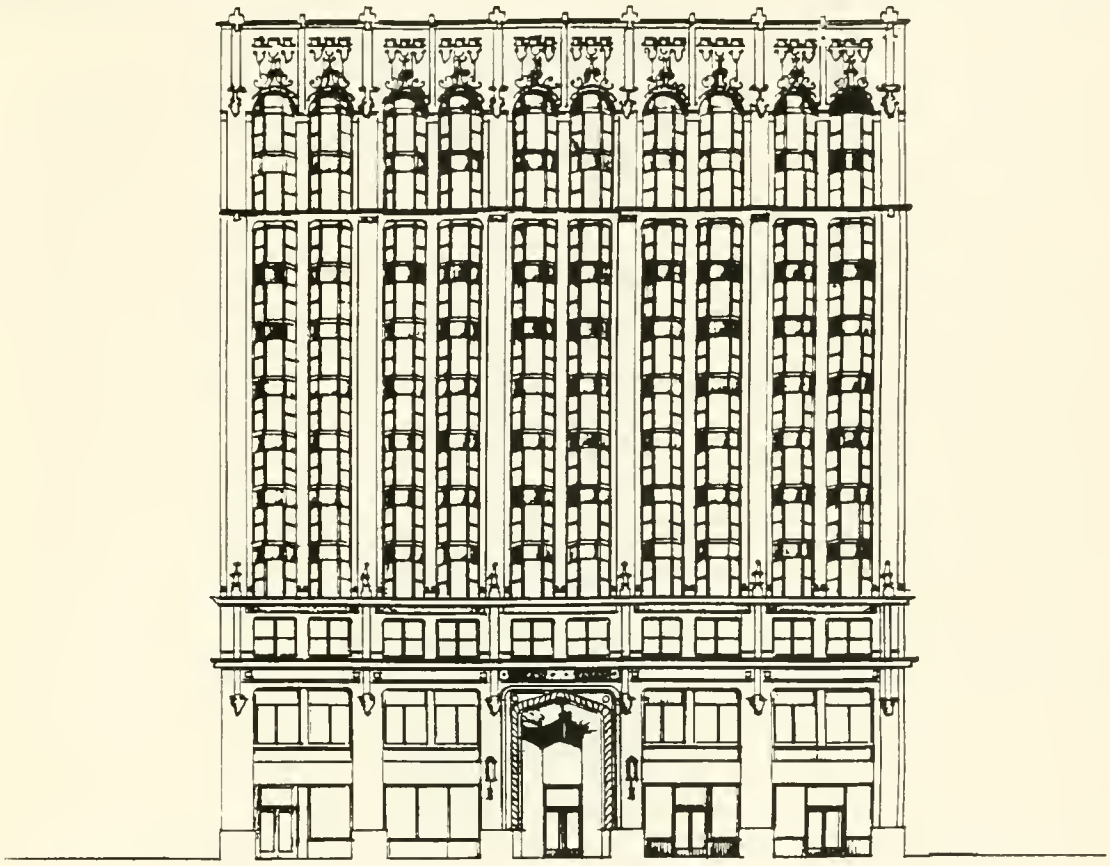
MASONIC BUILDING



LITTLE BUILDING

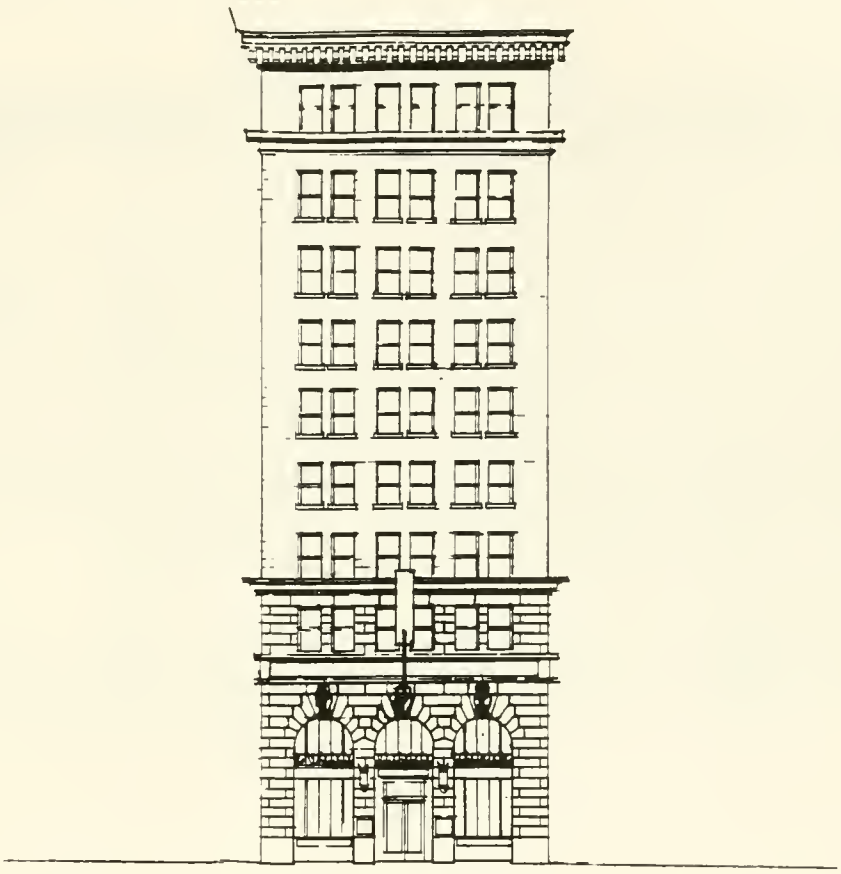
Piano Row

Historically, the blocks extending north and west from the corner of Tremont and Boylston Streets have been called "Piano Row" because of the concentration of piano showrooms and music-related industries. The Piano Row district, composed of 29 buildings, achieved its greatest significance between 1890 and 1930 when the area was completing its transition from a residential neighborhood to a commercial center. Visually, the two blocks of "Piano Row" frame the corner of the Boston Common and create a city focal point dominated by important early 125' "skyscrapers". The area is notable for the high quality of its turn-of-the-century commercial buildings and the Colonial and Saxon (Majestic) theaters, as well as the early 19th century townhouses along Boylston Place.



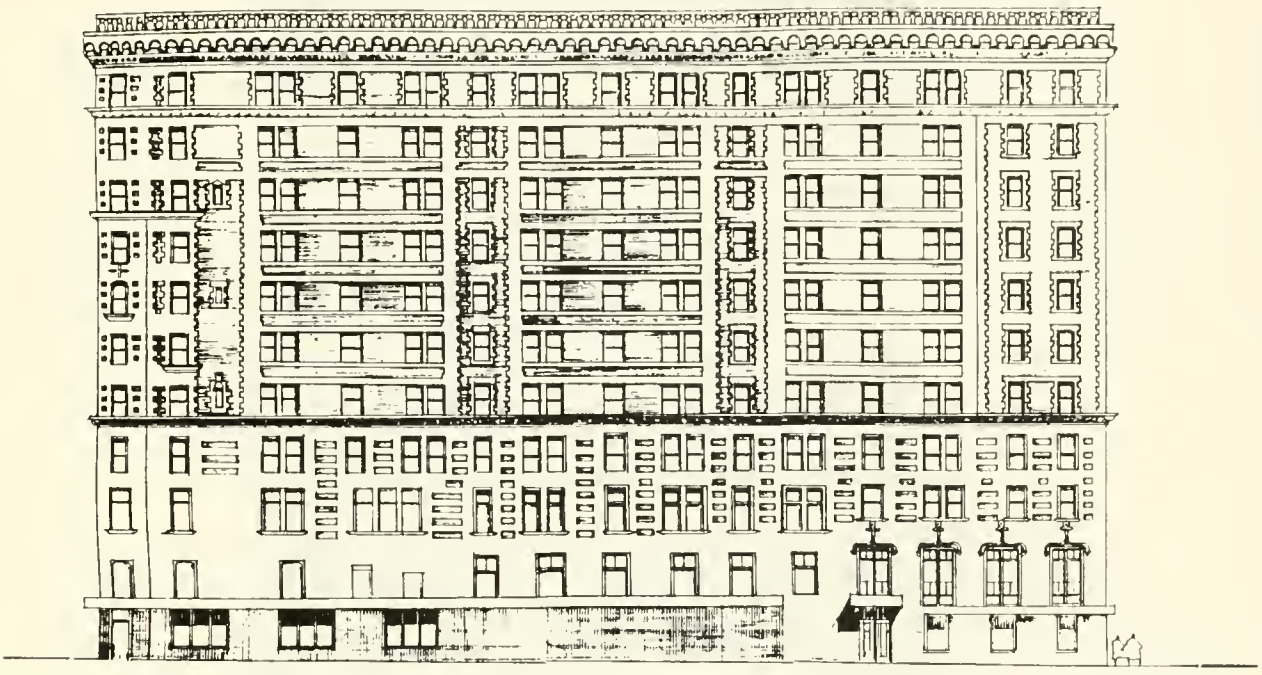
Little Building
74-94 Boylston Street
Built 1916-17

Style:	Modern Gothic, steel frame skyscraper
Architect:	Clarence H. Blackall, prominent Boston architect, well known for his theater designs as well as being responsible for the city's first skeleton construction building, the Carter/Winthrop building.
Originally:	Office building/shopping arcade. This building stands on the site of the old Hotel Pelham, the first apartment-hotel on the East Coast.
Current Status:	Restaurant; retail; office
Historic Rating:	Category III; listed on the National Register District of Historic Places.



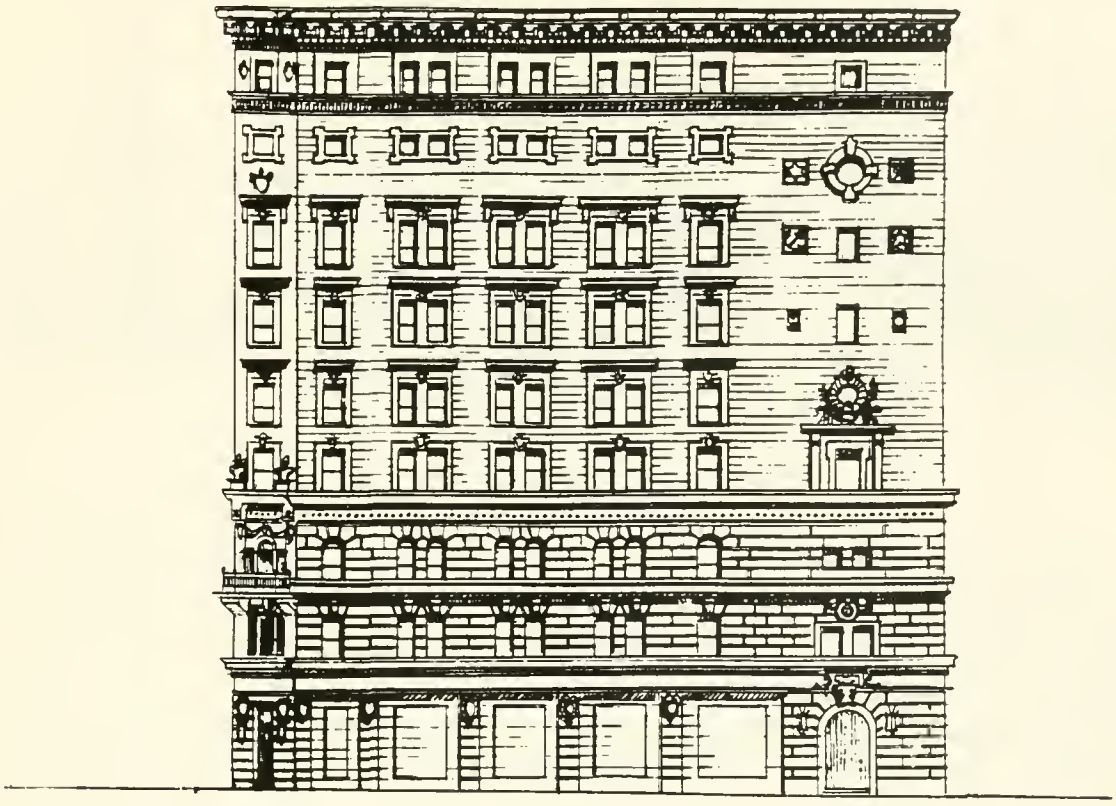
Union Warren Savings Bank
216-18 Tremont Street
Built 1925

Style:	Late Renaissance Revival, steel frame palazzo skyscraper.
Architect:	Thomas M. James Company, also responsible for designing the Shubert Theater
Originally:	Bank building
Current Status:	Office; retail
Historic Rating:	Category IV; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Hotel Touraine
62 Boylston Street
Built 1897-98

Style:	Free-standing Jacobethan, early skyscraper; brick and limestone
Architect:	Winslow & Wetherall, native Bostonian architects, also responsible for many large Boston commercial buildings such as the Walker, Pray and S.S. White Dental buildings.
Originally:	Built as a luxury hotel on the original site of President John Quincy Adam's mansion house.
Current Status:	Retail; residential
Historic Rating:	Category III; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

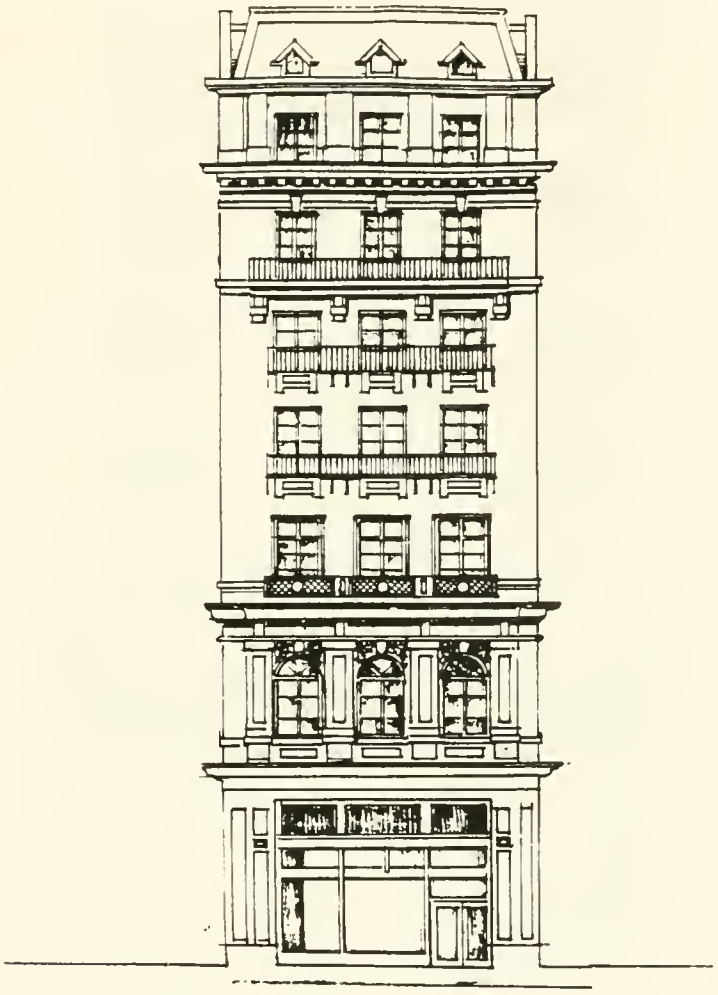


Masonic Temple
183-87 Tremont Street
Built 1897-99

Style:	Steel frame "palazzo" skyscraper, Renaissance Revival.
Architect:	George Loring and Stanford Phipps, public and commercial architects.
Originally:	Built as the third Masonic Temple on the site as the headquarters for the first Masonic Lodge in America and the highest Masonic authority in New England.
Current Status:	Masonic Temple
Historic Rating:	Category III; listed on the National Register of Historic Place.

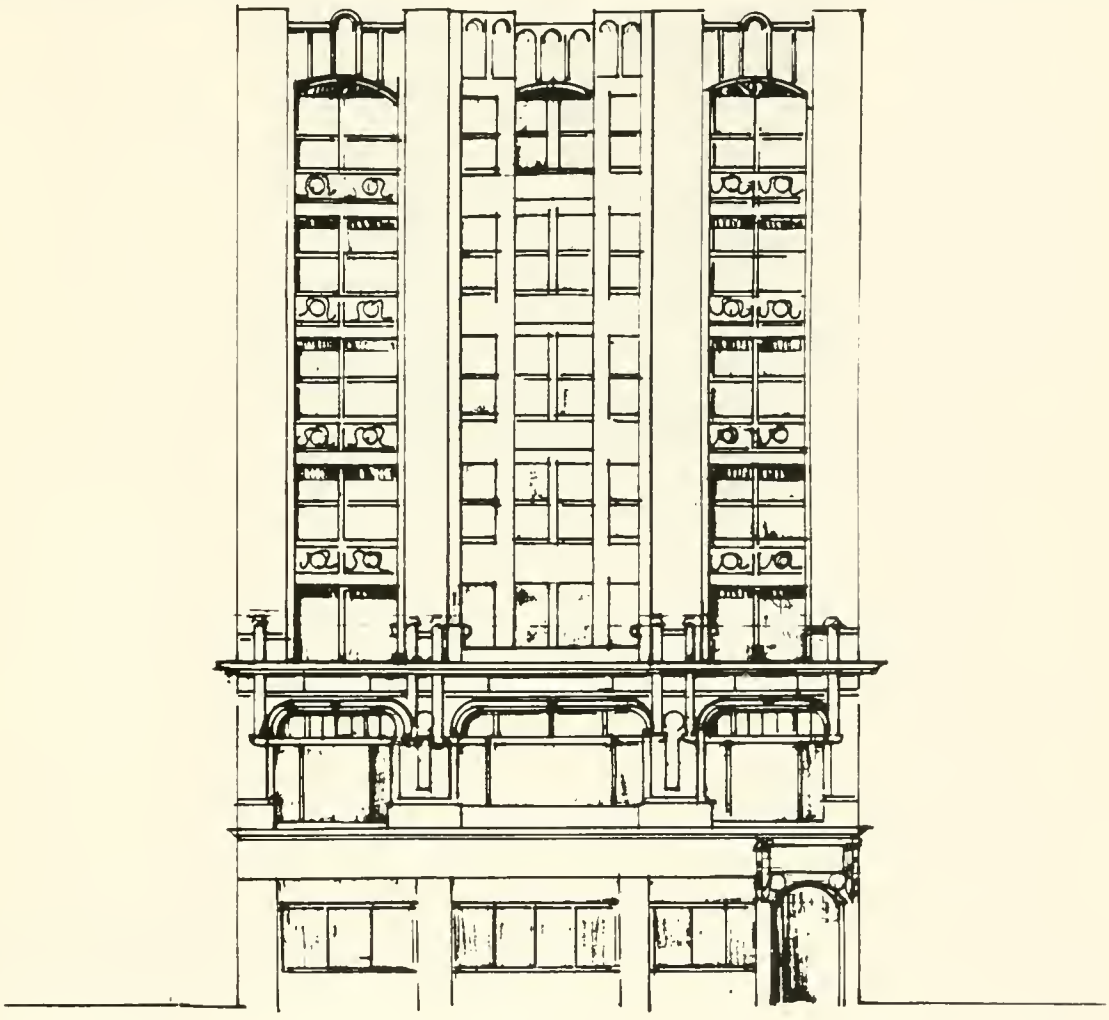
Washington Street Theater District

The Washington Street Theater District is located along the west side of Washington Street near the heart of Boston's downtown shopping area. The district contains seven buildings dating from the 1870s to the early 1930s and is the site of Boston's most concentrated theatrical activity after the mid-19th century. The area witnessed the first showing and later development of the moving picture in Boston. Further, this block is of national importance as being the block on which vaudeville was born. The rich architectural diversity of this area ranges from late Beaux Arts to Art Deco. This district is one of the few surviving that contains a historical concentration of buildings devoted to one area of endeavor - the performing arts - and it is unique in the richness of its theatrical past as well as in the diversity of architectural styles which are the result of this long tradition.



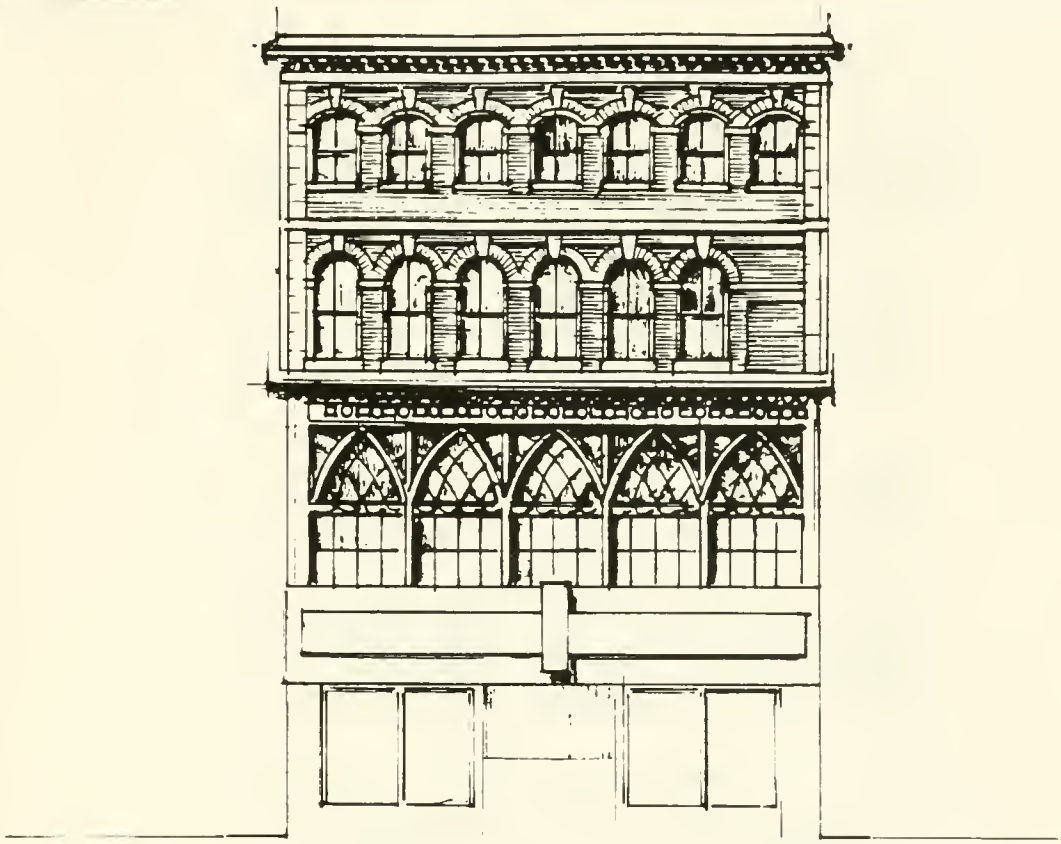
Bigelow-Kennard Building
511-13 Washington Street
Built 1912

Style:	Early Beaux Arts Skyscraper
Architect:	Unknown
Originally:	Bigelow, Kennard & Company jewelry and specialty store
Current Status:	Office; retail
Historic Rating:	Category III; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



White Building
515-21 Washington Street
Built 1917

Style:	Modern Gothic office building
Architect:	Blackall, Clapp & Whittemore
Originally:	
Current Status:	Office; retail
Historic Rating:	Category IV; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



New Adams House Restaurant
531-35 Washington Street
Built c. 1866

Style:	Mansard commercial building
Architect:	Unknown
Originally:	Weed Sewing Machine Company and men's clothing store.
Current Status:	Restaurant
Historic Rating:	Category IV; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Adams House Annex
543-47 Washington Street
Facade built 1858-60; interior completely remodeled 1881-82.

Style:	Romanesque inspired, restrained mid-19th century, stone Mansard commercial building.
Architect:	Interior by George Wetherall; facade architect unknown.
Originally:	Use was twofold - Washington Street entrance to the New Keith Theater (razed) and site of the Bijou Opera House. This site is rich in theatrical history including being the first Boston theater illuminated by electricity.
Current Status:	Pinball arcade; retail
Historic Rating:	Category III; listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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